



OTIS

Berkshire County



[NARRATIVE](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[GOVERNMENT](#)
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)
[TRANSPORTATION](#)
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

Otis is a tiny rural community high in the Berkshire Hills, a paradise for outdoor activity enthusiasts. It is rich in year-round recreational facilities with many ponds and lake providing swimming and water sport opportunities. The Farmington River flowing through town offers exceptional freshwater fishing for the angler. Acres of public forest lands are open for campers, hikers and passive recreation as well as for snowmobiling, cross country skiing and hunting in season.

Otis is the year round home for many young families as well as the home of a large community of retired people, and welcomes an extensive influx of second home owners and vacationers. Residents, both permanent and seasonal, share active civic-minded participation in local events including numerous old fashioned church suppers, several summer craft fairs and block dances, senior citizen activities, as well as community and school betterment projects.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Becket on the north, Monterey and Tyngham on the west, Sandisfield and Tolland on the south, and Blandford on the east. Otis is 24 miles southeast of Pittsfield, 30 miles west of Springfield, 120 miles west of Boston, and 143 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 38.03 sq. miles

Land Area: 35.84 sq. miles

Population: 1,073

Density: 30 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Great Barrington Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Otis, Monterey, East Lee, Becket

Regional Planning Agency

Berkshire County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 269-4556

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1810

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	771		
Democrats	111	14.4	%
Republicans	94	12.2	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	566	73.4	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Otis town, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	1,365	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	1,365	100.0
Male.....	720	52.7	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	4	0.3
Female.....	645	47.3	Mexican.....	1	0.1
Under 5 years.....	54	4.0	Puerto Rican.....	2	0.1
5 to 9 years.....	86	6.3	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	101	7.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	1	0.1
15 to 19 years.....	84	6.2	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	1,361	99.7
20 to 24 years.....	50	3.7	White alone.....	1,315	96.3
25 to 34 years.....	125	9.2	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	258	18.9	Total population.....	1,365	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	234	17.1	In households.....	1,361	99.7
55 to 59 years.....	92	6.7	Householder.....	567	41.5
60 to 64 years.....	88	6.4	Spouse.....	335	24.5
65 to 74 years.....	118	8.6	Child.....	358	26.2
75 to 84 years.....	62	4.5	Own child under 18 years.....	281	20.6
85 years and over.....	13	1.0	Other relatives.....	41	3.0
Median age (years).....	42.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	13	1.0
18 years and over.....	1,068	78.2	Nonrelatives.....	60	4.4
Male.....	555	40.7	Unmarried partner.....	39	2.9
Female.....	513	37.6	In group quarters.....	4	0.3
21 years and over.....	1,028	75.3	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	244	17.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	4	0.3
65 years and over.....	193	14.1	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	95	7.0	Total households.....	567	100.0
Female.....	98	7.2	Family households (families).....	386	68.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	151	26.6
One race.....	1,347	98.7	Married-couple family.....	335	59.1
White.....	1,318	96.6	With own children under 18 years.....	124	21.9
Black or African American.....	8	0.6	Female householder, no husband present.....	31	5.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	4	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	18	3.2
Asian.....	12	0.9	Nonfamily households.....	181	31.9
Asian Indian.....	1	0.1	Householder living alone.....	138	24.3
Chinese.....	10	0.7	Householder 65 years and over.....	43	7.6
Filipino.....	1	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	161	28.4
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	133	23.5
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.40	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.90	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	1,572	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	567	36.1
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	1,006	63.9
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	972	61.8
Some other race.....	5	0.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	18	1.3	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	9.9	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races:</i> ³			Occupied housing units.....	567	100.0
White.....	1,335	97.8	Owner-occupied housing units.....	476	84.0
Black or African American.....	16	1.2	Renter-occupied housing units.....	91	16.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	14	1.0	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.40	(X)
Asian.....	17	1.2	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.42	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	6	0.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	0
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Otis is situated in Berkshire County, a region of hills and low mountains that widen to create the Berkshire Valley in the south. The major cities and towns are linked together by U.S. Route 7. North Adams and Pittsfield are major points of entry for rail freight into Massachusetts, and the region has several commercial airports.

Major Highways

Principal highways are the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90), which passes along the northern border of the town, State Route 8, which runs N-S, and State Route 23.

Rail

There is no freight rail service in town, but the Housatonic Railroad has a public delivery track in Sheffield.

Bus

Otis is not affiliated with any regional transit authority.

Other

The Great Barrington Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 2,579'x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.